

1. (Currently amended) A method for fractional wounding of skin tissue, comprising:

applying at least one chromophore in a specific pattern to a predetermined area of the skin tissue, wherein the specific pattern corresponds to a desired pattern of fractional wounding of the skin; and

applying electromagnetic radiation to the predetermined area of the skin so as to produce a plurality of thermally-damaged regions in at least an epidermal portion of the tissue skin based on an interaction between the at least one chromophore and the electromagnetic radiation.

2. (Canceled)

3. (Currently amended) The method of claim 1, further comprising removing a first portion of the at least one chromophore from the a surface of the skin prior to applying the electromagnetic radiation, wherein a second portion of the at least one chromophore remains in pores of the skin.

4. (Currently amended) The method of claim 3 wherein the at least one chromophore is applied to the skin as a powder.

5. (Previously presented) The method of claim 1 wherein the specific pattern is applied using at least one of a grid, a mesh, a roller, a stamp or a stencil.

6. (Previously presented) The method of claim 1 wherein the specific pattern is applied using an attachment medium.

7. (Original) The method of claim 6 wherein the attachment medium is an adhesive.

8. (Original) The method of claim 6 wherein the attachment medium is light-activated.

9. (Previously presented) The method of claim 7 wherein the attachment medium is at least one of an acrylide, a derma-bond or a glue.

10. (Canceled)

11. (Currently amended) A method for fractional wounding of ~~tissue~~ skin, comprising;  
applying at least one chromophore to a predetermined area of the skin;

and

applying a mask with a specific pattern over the predetermined area of the ~~tissue~~ skin, wherein the specific pattern corresponds to a desired pattern of fractional wounding of the skin; and

applying electromagnetic radiation to the predetermined area so as to generate regions of a thermal injury in at least an epidermal portion of the ~~tissue~~ skin based on an interaction between the electromagnetic radiation and the at least one chromophore, wherein the regions are formed in a predetermined pattern.

12. (Canceled)

13. (Previously presented) The method of claim 11 wherein the mask is at least one of a grid, a mesh, a roller, a stamp or a stencil.

14. (Canceled)

15. (Canceled)

16. (Original) The method of claim 11 wherein the mask protects the skin from fractional wounding and wherein the fractional wounding occurs where the skin is not in contact with the mask.

17. (Previously presented) The method of claim 16 wherein the mask is at least one of a grid, a mesh or a stencil.

18. (Canceled)

19. (Canceled)

20. (Previously presented) The method of claim 16 wherein the mask comprises at least one chromophore reflector.

21. (Previously presented) The method of claim 20 wherein the at least one chromophore reflector is at least one of a glass bead, a gold flake, a metal particle, a mirrored glass bead, a salt crystal, or a silica.

22. (Previously presented) The method of claim 1 wherein the at least one chromophore comprises carbon.

23. (Previously presented) The method of claim 1 wherein the at least one chromophore is a phase transition chromophore.

24. (Original) The method of claim 23 wherein the phase transition chromophore comprises paraffin.

25. (Previously presented) The method of claim 1 wherein the specific pattern comprises at least one line.

26. (Canceled)

27. (Currently amended) The method of claim 1, wherein the electromagnetic radiation has properties to generate a thermal injury to at least one region of the tissue proximal to the at least one chromophore, while avoiding a generation of a the thermal injury in at least a portion of the predetermined area.

28. (Previously presented) The method of claim 1, wherein a smallest dimension of the plurality of thermally damaged regions of the tissue is between about 1  $\mu\text{m}$  and about 1000  $\mu\text{m}$ .

29. (Previously presented) The method of claim 1, wherein a smallest dimension of the plurality of thermally damaged regions of the tissue is between about 100  $\mu\text{m}$  and about 800  $\mu\text{m}$ .

30. (Previously presented) The method of claim 1, wherein a distance between adjacent ones of the thermally damaged regions of the tissue is between about 10  $\mu\text{m}$  and about 2000  $\mu\text{m}$ .

31. (New) The method of claim 1, wherein the thermally-damaged regions are further produced in a dermal portion of the skin.

32. (New) The method of claim 11, wherein the regions of the thermal injury ~~thermal-~~ damage are further generated in a dermal portion of the skin.